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## 2005 Ag Chemical Dealer Updates

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# 2005 Ag Chemical Dealer Updates

**Abstract**

Crop production changes at a rapid pace. New products, label revisions, regulatory requirements, soil nutrient recommendations--just some of the items you need to stay up-to-date on to better serve your customers. The Ag Chemical Dealer Updates are designed to do just that.

**Keywords**

Agronomy

**Disciplines**

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**Why should it work?** It shouldn't. The underlying assumption that heating soil with an alkali solution will hydrolyze (breakdown) a specific organic N component or fraction, or will reflect N mineralization in a field setting is flawed. The concept of alkali decomposition of organic N in soils was studied 35 years ago at Iowa State University and found not to be predictive of mineralization. The amount of N liberated by the ISNT procedure from soils in the recent 43-site study was consistently at 15 percent of total soil N. This means the ISNT values are simply reflecting total soil N, and not something specific to mineralizable N. Any alkali hydrolysis test, such as the ISNT, could be used as an indicator of total soil N and soil organic matter, but tests are already well established and better suited for those measurements. Also, it is well known that total soil N and soil organic matter are not good predictors of mineralizable N or N fertilization rate.

**What is the recommendation on use of ISNT?** Based on research conducted in Iowa and several other Midwestern states, the test is not recommended. The chance of making an incorrect decision on N application to corn is extremely high and would have serious negative economic consequences.

**Other information.** Two recent newsletter articles, one from the University of Wisconsin and one from the University of Illinois, provide excellent overviews of the ISNT test, research findings, and related N recommendation issues in Illinois. The University of Wisconsin article (in *Wisconsin Crop Manager*, Vol. 12, No. 27, September 22, 2005) can be found at <http://ipcm.wisc.edu/wcm/> and the University of Illinois article (in *the Bulletin*, No. 22, Article 7, September 2, 2005) can be found at [www.ipm.uiuc.edu/bulletin/article.php?id=410](http://www.ipm.uiuc.edu/bulletin/article.php?id=410).

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## Announcements

# Continuing instructional courses for certified commercial pesticide applicators

by **Keven Arrowsmith, Extension Communications**

Iowa State University Extension's Pest Management and the Environment (PME) program, in cooperation with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, provides training and certification programs for commercial applicators in Iowa. Pesticide use in Iowa is regulated under the "Pesticide Act of Iowa," Chapter 206 of the Code of Iowa. Commercial applicators are divided into categories. An applicator must be certified in each category he or she will be applying pesticides under. Several fall courses remain in 2005:

**Greenhouse and Ornamental Applicators**—October 26 and 27, Categories 3G, 30, 10

**Mosquito/Public Health Pest Management**—October 27, Categories 7D, 8, 10

**Ornamental and Turfgrass Applicators**—November 16, Categories 2, 30, 3T, 30T, 10

**Commercial Ag Weed, Insect, and Plant Disease Management**—November 23, Categories 1A, 1B, 1C, 10

**Grain Fumigation**—December 6, Categories 7C, 10

**Pest Control Operators**—December 7, Categories 7A, 7B, 8, 10

**Aerial Applicators**—Employers will be contacted when the program is available; Categories 10, 11.



(Jerry DeWitt)

Program-specific postcards will be sent to applicators certified in the various categories to notify them of upcoming programs. For more information about the courses or if you want to obtain a registration form, visit [www.extension.iastate.edu/PME](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/PME) or your local county extension office. If you have specific questions about registration, please contact Beth Minner at (515) 294-0397 or by e-mail at [bminner@iastate.edu](mailto:bminner@iastate.edu).

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